Please return to Mrs. Haines—
23 Centre St. New York City

Extract Letter from Mr. A. W. Bentley, Zuni N. M.

"Of all the families in Zuni, there is not one unfriendly to me, or to my wife. I believe we have the respect of all this people, and we know we have the confidence of many of them.

Our School during the past month, (although this, has been a continuous round of Dances) numbering 66 in all with an average of 12. Several of the scholars attending last month belong to leading families, who have never sent their children to school before and some of them have been quite steady in their attendance, and appear to take great interest in learning. Mrs. B. has a nice class of young girls learning to sew, and I have a class of large boys I am teaching to work with carpenters tools, and both classes are very much interested. I have fitted up the driest room in the "Mission-Cellar" for a work shop, and through some of my friends East, I have obtained a few tools, and am trying to teach the boys how repair wagons or any thing else that is in need of mending.

The Indians have a few old wagons, nearly all broken however, and one of the old Indians needed his wagon very much to gather his corn, so I told him to go and get me a piece of wood, and bring the old wagon down to our shop and we would put a new axle in for him. And sure enough, the next morning, he came with a piece of timber, and then the old Axle!

After hearing the lessons of my big boys, I left the school in charge of Mrs. B., and took my working class and went to the shop. I had never made an axle in my life, but I had seen it done, and knew I could do it. We went to work and shaped the axle and put on the

Thimbles and set it up in tip top shape, and it runs true and all right. And we, (the boy and I) think we are pretty good wagon-Menders, and the boys are very much pleased. I received a few days ago from my brother in Connecticut, the machinery for a loom, and I hope in a short time to receive a Complete loom and two spinning wheels. The Zunis are very anxious to learn, and they seem to think because I can do some things, that I can either do or show them how to do almost anything that [redacted] to be done. While this is unfortunate for my time and adds very much to my labor, I feel that I am winning a place among them, and hope to make them feel the need of a teacher and place confidence in what he tells them. If I never deceive them now, and show them that I know what I am doing when I am helping them to improve

Extract from letter
Mr. A. W. Bentley,
Zuni, New Mexico

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had sufficient intercourse with people of other races to learn to speak that language, or have not been of sufficient importance in some particulars to induce them to learn their language? I know of none to fill this bill except the Zunis. Thereupon I feel this people are deserving of special advantages, and should have them to place them upon an equal footing with other people.

You ask why the Mission at Zuni is unhealthful? I reply, drinking alkali water, teaching in underground rooms without sufficient ventilation to carry off the damps, much less the horrible stench of the dirty Children, and last but not least, living without vegetables of any kind except now and then a sack of potatoes when they can be procured from Albuquerque, and then at a cost generally of 10¢ per pound.

their condition, I have faith to believe that when I am able to speak their language, they will listen to and believe me when I tell them about my Kind Heavenly Father.

I long for the day to come, when in their own language, I can tell them the "Old, Old Story." It will be new to them, and it is my earnest daily prayer that God will prepare their minds and hearts to believe and rest upon it.

We have become very much attached to the Zunis, and believe a great change can be brought about in them, if no great mistake is made in their treatment.

I expect a large attendance upon school this Winter, larger than we have room for. We have a very interesting Sabbath-School, for us, but of course there is not much variety about it. We have two Rolls of Scripture Texts, and I take a pointer and follow the words and we read in that way. We have prayer, the school standing during prayer; we also read from the Children's Catechism, and we sing "Come to Jesus," and other Hymns easy to learn the little folks. Then Mrs. B. takes the pointer and the school reads with her, and the Children appear to like the Sabbath-School, and thus, little by little, we hope to lead them to remember "Domingo Sa cua," the Sabbath-Day and to keep it Holy. The scholars are very quiet and attentive.

Without a school-bell it is utterly impossible to get any regular attendance upon school, it is to get one quarter of the Children to come to school. And when in spite of all I can do, I find so few attending, and many of my best scholars as late or perhaps not come for two hours after school time, I feel as though my time was being wasted.

There is scarcely a people under the Sun, but have had more advantages than the Zunis. Let me ask you to name a people with a language of their own, [illegible]

Zuni - New Mex

Extract from letter from
Mr. A. W. Bentley -